The Contents.

1 LVCRECE praises for chaste, vertuous, and beautifull enamoreth *Tarquin*:

2 *Tarquin* welcomed by *Lucrece*.

3 *Tarquin* ouerthrowes al disputing with wilfulnesse.

4 He puts his resolution in practise.

5 *Lucrece* awakes and is amazed to be so surprized.

6 She pleads in defence of Chastity.

7 *Tarquin* all impatient, interrupteth her, and rauisheth her by force.

8 *Lucrece* complaines on her abuse.

9 She disputeth whether she should kill her selfe or no.

10 She is resolued on her selfe-murther, yet sendeth first for her Husband.

11 *Colatinus* with his friends returne home.

12 *Lucrece* relateth the mischiefe: they sweare reuenge, and she to exasperate the matter, killeth her selfe.

THE

THE RAPE OF LVCRECE.

1 *The praising of Lucrece as chast, vertuous, and beautifull, maketh Tarquin enamored.*

FRom the besieged *Ardea* all in post,
Borne by the trustlesse wings of *false desire*,
Lust-breathed *Tarquin* leaues the *Roman* host,
And to *Colatium* beares the lightlesse *fire*,
Which in pale *embers* hid, lurkes to aspire
And girdle with imbracing *flames* the *waist*,
Of *Colatines* faire *loue*, *Lucrece* the chast.

Haply that name of *chast*, vnhaply set
This bateless *edge* on his keene *appetite*:
When *Colatine* vnwisely did not let
To praise the cleere vnmatched *red* and *white*,
Which triumpht in that *skie* of his delight,
Where *mortall* star as bright as heauens *beauties*,
With pure *aspects* did him peculiar *duties*.

For he the night before in *Tarquins* tent,
Vnlockt the *treasure* of his happy state:
What priceless *wealth* the *heauens* had him lent
In the possession of his *beauteous mate*,
Reckoning his fortune at so high a rate
That *Kings* might be espoused to more *fame*:
But *King* nor *Prince* to such a peerelesse *dame*.

O happinesse enioyed but of a few,
And if possest, as soone decayde and done:
As if the *mornings* siluer melting dew,
Against the *golden* splendor of the *Sunne*,
A date expir'd: and *cancel'd* ere begun.
Honor and *beauty* in the owners armes,

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Rape of Lucrece* (STC 22352) LONDON, 1632 UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (JA 3717) Octavo